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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1601

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CONSERVATION, ENERGY, AND FORESTRY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CATTLE, DAIRY, AND PULTRY  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC OPERATIONS

November 30, 2011

Surface Transportation Board  
Attn: Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No 3)  
395 F Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001

231381

I write to support the nomination of Mr. Charles L. Elsea to fill the small shipper vacancy on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC).

Mr. Elsea is Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of The Scoular Company, a privately-held marketer of agricultural products. With more than 70 offices and facilities throughout North America, Scoular manages supply chain risk in worldwide feed, food, and renewable fuel markets by buying, selling, storing, handling, and transporting grain and feed and food ingredients.

Scoular, like other small shippers in agribusiness, depends on the U.S. railway system to efficiently transport its products, relying heavily on both covered hopper cars and intermodal containers. With more than 30 years of experience in the grain industry, Mr. Elsea has extensive working knowledge of rail operations and is aware of the issues of importance to shippers and both Class I and shortline rail carriers.

In addition to his responsibilities with Scoular, Mr. Elsea is a member of the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and presently serves on NGFA's Arbitration Appeals committee. For the past nine years, Mr. Elsea has served as a commissioner on the Highway Advisory Commission of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and served as a member of KDOT's Strategic Planning Task Force in previous years. Mr. Elsea is a past Chairman and past member of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Transportation, Elevator, and Grain Merchants Association (TEGMA). He previously served on the Kansas Governor's Agricultural Advisory Board.

Mr. Elsea is a graduate of Kansas State University's College of Agriculture. Following graduation, Mr. Elsea worked in grain marketing for The Pillsbury Company. In 1981, Mr. Elsea joined The Scoular Company's Kansas City office as a grain merchandiser. Over the years, Mr. Elsea worked in a variety of Scoular locations in various positions of increasing responsibility, merchandising or managing the merchandising of domestic and export feed grains and wheat. From 2000 to 2007, Mr. Elsea was Senior Vice President responsible for the company's Flour Mill Markets Division, and it was during this time that he played an instrumental role in developing Scoular's shuttle train network. He was named CEO in 2009.

Mr. Elsea would be a great resource and addition to RSTAC. He is well respected and has a proven record of accomplishment throughout his career. Mr. Elsea is dedicated to strengthening our national railway industry and is committed to serving as a member of RSTAC for a three-year term. Thank you for your attention and consideration of Mr. Elsea's nomination to RSTAC.

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Sincerely,



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